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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/FR99/00553 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> March 6, 2000 (03/06/00) <b>(30) Priority Date:</b> 99/03139 March 11, 1999 (03/11/99) FR <b>(71) Applicant (for all contracting states excluding the United States):</b> SNF S.A. [FR/FR]; 41, rue Jean Huss, F-42028 Saint-Etienne Cedex 1 (FR). <b>(72) Inventors; and</b> <b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (U.S. only):</b> BROSSE, Jacques [FR/FR]; La Faverge, F-42320 La Grand Croix (FR). SABATIER, Bernard [FR/FR]; 6, place A. Thomas, F-42000 Saint-Etienne (FR). <b>(74) Agent:</b> RICHEBOURG, Michel; Cabinet Michel Richebourg, "Le Clos du Golf," 69, rue Saint-Simon, F-42000 Saint-Etienne (FR).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO Patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG ZW), Eurasian Patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European Patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI Patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> USE OF SUPERABSORBENT POLYMERS FOR TREATING RAW SKINS, CORRESPONDING COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS AND RESULTING TREATED SKINS  <b>(57) Abstract:</b>  The invention relates to use of superabsorbent (co)polymers (SAP) as an agent for preservation treatment of animal hides. The SAP is used preferably in conjunction with salt or other hygroscopic agent, in particular 50% NaCl/50% SAP by weight. Suitably treated hides are obtained in 24 hours and one-half less salt is used in comparison to the prior art, disadvantages such as surface brine, salt in slaughterhouse waste, and others being eliminated.		